

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-06 AF-04 IO-03 EA-13 SP-01

PM-03 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSC-07

NSCE-00 PRS-01 DRC-01 /077 W
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R 082218Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8970

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 11229

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CB, CH, AG, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH REPORTS CONCERNING CAMBODIA

REF: A. PEKING 0721 B. ALGIERS 0098

BEGIN SUMMARY: QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ASIA (INDO-CHINA) BOLLE CALLED IN EMBOFF MAY 7 TO READ FROM THREE RECENT TELEGRAMS CONCERNING CAMBODIA. FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO PEKING (MANACH) REPORTED SIHANOUK'S PRAISE OF KHIEU SAMPHAN, THE CONDITIONS FOR "NEGOTIATIONS" WITH THE US, AND HIS AND THE KHMER ROUGE SATISFACTION WITH CURRENT FRENCH POLICY TOWARD CAMBODIA. MANACH ALSO REPORTED A CONVERSATION WITH THE QUEEN AND COMMENTED ON HER DECLINING HEALTH. THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO ALGIERS REPORTED ON KHIEU SAMPHAN'S VISIT, UNDERLINING THE ALGERIAN EFFORTS TO PRESERVE TOP POSITION FOR SIHANOUK WHILE PROVIDING A WARM RECEPTION FOR KHIEU SAMPHAN. END OF SUMMARY

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1. FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN PEKING'S CONVERSATION WITH

SIHANOUK. BOLLE READ FROM MANAC'H'S APRIL 30 REPORT OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH SIHANOUK; BOLLE THOUGHT SOME OF THE REPORT WAS OF LUNCHEON CONVERSATION, BUT OTHER REMARKS APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN MADE IN A TETE-A-TETE AT WHICH THE OTHER GUESTS WERE NOT PRESENT. AT SIHANOUK'S APRIL 30 LUNCHEON FOR THE FRENCH (MANAC'H, TWO OF HIS COLLEAGUES AND SOME AFP REPS), SIHANOUK PRAISED KHIEU SAMPHAN. HE SAID KHIEU SAMPHAN WAS A PATRIOT AND HAD SIHANOUK'S COMPLETE SUPPORT. AFTER THE GRUNK VICTORY, SIHANOUK WOULD RESIDE IN CAMBODIA EVEN THOUGH THE REAL POWER WOULD ELUDE HIM. ONLY IF THE SITUATION BECAME IMPOSSIBLE WOULD HE RETIRE TO FRANCE. SIHANOUK CONFIRMED THAT THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE NEGOTIATIONS WERE WITH THE AMERICANS. BEFORE SUCH NEGOTIATIONS COULD BEGIN, THE US WOULD HAVE TO MODIFY ITS POLICY, IN OTHER WORDS STOP SUPPORTING LON NOL. SIHANOUK SAID HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE CURRENT FRANCO/GRUNK RELATIONS. FRENCH ABSTENTION IN THE VOTE ON CAMBODIA AT THE UNGA WAS ACCEPTABLE. SIHANOUK ADDED THAT THIS WAS NOT MERELY HIS VIEW BUT ALSO THAT OF KHIEU SAMPHAN AND THE KHMER ROUGE. GRUNK WAS ACCORDINGLY READY AT ANY TIME TO DISCUSS WITH THE FRENCH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF "NORMAL RELATIONS." SIHANOUK STRESSED THE MODERATION OF KHIEU SAMPHAN'S FOREIGN POLICY.

2. MANAC'H'S CONVERSATION WITH QUEEN KOSSAMAK. QUEEN KOSSAMAK INVITED MANAC'H TO VISIT HER IN PEKING; SIHANOUK WAS ALSO PRESENT. SHE SAID THAT SHE CONTINUED TO HAVE GREAT CONFIDENCE IN FRANCE WITH WHICH CAMBODIA HAD NO REAL PROBLEMS. MANAC'H SAID THAT IT WAS PARTICULARLY MOVING WHEN SHE SAID THAT NOW WHEN SHE WAS SO ILL SHE WAS PARTICULARLY HAPPY

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TO HAVE NEAR HER HER SON AND THE AMBASSADOR OF FRANCE. SHE WAS PARTICULARLY HARD ON LON NOL. MANAC'H COMMENTED THAT SHE WAS VERY ILL AND DOES NOT LEAVE HER ROOM. SHE NOW GAVE THE IMPRESSION OF A VERY OLD AND FEEBLE WOMAN. ALTHOUGH SHE RETAINS FULL LUCIDITY, IT IS CLEAR THAT HER ORGANISM IS PROGRESSIVELY DETERIORATING AND THAT SHE IS GOING DOWN HILL RATHER RAPIDLY. BOLLE INFERRED THAT MANAC'H THOUGHT THAT SHE WOULD NOT LIVE VERY LONG.

3. KHIEU SAMPHAN'S VISIT TO ALGIERS. THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO ALGERIA, SOUTOU, HAD SENT A GOOD REPORT ON KHIEU SAMPHAN'S VISIT TO ALGIERS. BOLLE COMMENTED THAT SOUTOU WAS A GOOD POLITICAL OBSERVER. CONTRARY TO REPORT REF B, BOLLE SAID THAT SOUTOU, AFTER OBTAINING THE QUAI'S CONSENT, WENT TO THE ALGERIAN (BELKACEM) RECEPTION FOR KHIEU SAMPHAN AND KHIEU SAMPHAN'S RETURN RECEPTION FOR THE ALGERIANS. SOUTOU HAD NO SPECIAL CONVERSATION WITH KHIEU SAMPHAN, BUT HE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ALGERIANS WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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PLEASED WITH HIS VISIT. SOUTOU DID HAVE A LONG CONVERSATION WITH THE GRUNK FOREIGN MINISTER, SARIN CHAK, WHO DECLARED QUICKLY THAT HE (PRESUMABLY IN CONTRAST TO KHIEU SAMPHAN) WAS NOT A COMMUNIST. SARIN CHAK SAID THAT KHIEU SAMPHAN HAD NOW EVOLVED; BEFORE HE WAS DOGMATIC BUT NOW HE IS MORE LEVEL-HEADED AND REASONABLE. SARIN CHAK SAID THAT THERE WAS NO DIVERGENCE BETWEEN KHIEU SAMPHAN AND THE PRINCE'S GROUP IN THE GRUNK. SARIN CHAK SAID THAT KHIEU SAMPHAN WAS A REAL NATIONALIST WHO WAS STRUGGLING FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF HIS COUNTRY. KHIEU SAMPHAN ADHERED TOTALLY TO THE DOCTRINE OF NONALIGNMENT. SARIN CHAK SAID THA THE AMERICANS SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT

THIS EVOLUTION OF KHIEU SAMPHAN AND HIS GROUP IS IN THE US INTEREST. NATURALLY NO NEGOTIATIONS ARE POSSIBLE WITH THE AMERICANS WHILE THEY CONTINUE TO SUPPORT LON NOL.

4. SOUTOU NOTED A CERTAIN RESERVE TOWARD KHIEU SAMPHAN ON THE PART OF THE ALGERIANS. BOUMEDIENNE APPEARED TO WISH TO CONSERVE THE NUMBER ONE ROLE FOR SIHANOUK. BOUMEDIENNE MADE A SPECIAL EFFORT WITH KHIEU SAMPHAN TO GET HIM TO ADOPT OPENLY THE NON-ALIGNED DOCTRINE -- AS HE HAD DONE WITH SIHANOUK. BOUMEDIENNE HAD EARLIER MADE THE SAME PITCH IN HANOI, BUT HAD NOT MUCH SUCCESS. HE WAS SATISFIED, HOWEVER, WITH KHIEU SAMPHAN'S RESPONSE.

5. SOUTOU REPORTED THAT FOLLOWING THE VISIT TO NOUAKCHOTT, KHIEU SAMPHAN WOULD GO TO YAOUNDE, AND THEN HOPED TO VISIT CAIRO.
IRWIN

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